

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL

SUBJECT: BEJART BALLET

REF: BRUSSELS 1898

1. SINCE RECEIPT REFTTEL WE HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH
BELGIAN EMBASSY WASHINGTON, WITH DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COM-
MITTEE AND WITH IMPRESSARIO FOR BEJART BALLET TO RESOLVE
DIFFICULTIES.

2. IT BECAME APPARENT EARLY IN OUR CONSULTATIONS THAT
MADISON SQUARE GARDEN APPEARANCE COULD NOT BE SAVED. CON-
TRACTOR FOR DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION CONSTRUCTION INSISTED
THAT IF CONSTRUCTION DELAYED OR INTERRUPTED HE WOULD BE UN-
WILLING GUARANTEE COMPLETION OF CONSTRUCTION IN TIME FOR
CONVENTION. OBVIOUSLY, NEITHER BELGIAN AMBASSADOR NOR WE
COULD BE PERSUASIVE UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES AND IMPRES-
SARIO ALSO BELIEVED THERE WAS NO POINT IN TRYING TO CHANGE
THIS DECISION.

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3. EFFORTS WERE THEN MADE TO FIND ALTERNATE SITE FOR

BALLET, SPECIFICALLY RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL. IT ALSO
BOOKED. IMPRESSARIO IS NOW NEGOTIATING FOR POSSIBLE AP-
PEARANCE AT SHEEP'S MEADOW, CENTRAL PARK AND WE HAVE URGED

NY CITY BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION TO SUPPORT HIS EFFORTS.
WE WILL ADVISE FURTHER AS SOON AS ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
BECOMES AVAILABLE. KISSINGER

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